SI. No.	State	2002	2003
33.	Chhattisgarh	08	11
34.	Jharkhand	Nil	04
35.	Uttaranchal	02	02
	TOTAL:	1255	1356

Starvation deaths

2078. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been seized of the direction issued in early June, 2005, by the Supreme Court of India to the West Bengal State Human Rights Commission to verify reports of wide spread starvation deaths among people in several villages in Murshidabad district of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the actions taken, if any, for ensuring availability of adequate nutritious food to the surviving people living below the poverty level in the district in order to avoid further deaths due to starvation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Government of West Bengal has reported that inssuance of the such directions by the Supreme Court of India have not come to their notice, nor they have received any reference from West Bengal State Human Rights Commission in this regard. Moreover, no starvation death has been reported by the State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To ensure food security to the people living below poverty line, a quantity of 15.88 lakh MT of rice, 45.12 lakh MT of wheat under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and 6.20 lakh MT of rice and 0.42 lakh MT of wheat under various food based welfare schemes was allocated to State Government of West Bengal during the year

2003-2004. For the year 2004-2005, 15.88 lakh MT of rice, 45.12 lakh MT of wheat under TPDS and 7.88 lakh MT of rice and 0.41 lakh MT of wheat was allocated to the State Government under various welfare schemes.

New sugar mills in Bihar

†2079. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal regarding setting up of five new sugar mills in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether sixteen old sugar mills which are closed in the State would be reactivated/revived or privatised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Central Government do not set up sugar mills in any part of the Country. The sugar industry has been delicensed with effect from 11.09.98. The entrepreneurs are free to set up sugar mills as per techno-economic viability of their project maintaining a distance of 15 KMs. from the existing sugar factories.

(c) It is responsibility of the entrepreneurs to take steps to reactivate/ revive or privatise the closed sugar mills. The sick mills belonging to private and public sectors and covered under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). Such sugar mills are required to make reference to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) whenever their accumulated losses become equal to or more than the net worth. If the rehabilitation schemes sanctioned by the BIFR provide for any relief/concession from this Ministry, the scheme is considered as per the existing guidelines.

Norms for food grain procurement and allocation

2080. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.